

REMARKSI. Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-18 were pending.

Claims 1 and 3-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Serial No. 6,111,586 to Ikeda et al. (hereinafter "Ikeda").

Claims 10-18 have been allowed.

Claim 2 has been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

II. Applicant's Response

As noted above in footnote 1 on page 2 of this paper, the pending Office action is responsive to applicant's communication with the Patent Office on May 24, 2005. See page entitled "Office Action Summary" of the pending Office action. However, on August 2, 2005, applicant submitted a supplemental amendment to the Patent Office via facsimile. In the 08.02.05 supplemental amendment, a copy of which is attached hereto in Appendix A, applicant amended claims 1 and 2. Accordingly, the listing of claims that begins on page 2 of this paper reflects the amendments from the 08.02.05 supplemental amendment.

The Examiner has identified claim 2 as containing patentable subject matter. To facilitate prosecution, applicant has amended claim 1 in the following manner:

1) applicant withdraws the amendment to claim 1 submitted in applicant's 08.02.05 supplemental amendment, thereby reinstating the version of claim 1 to which the pending Office action is responsive, and

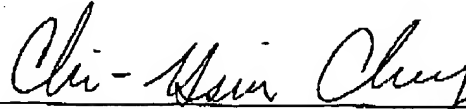
2) applicant incorporates the features of claim 2, which applicant believes to be similar in scope to the amendment to claim 1 that applicant submitted in the 08.02.05 supplemental amendment.

Since claims 3-9 depend from claim 1, applicant submits that claims 3-9 also are patentable at least for the same reasons that amended claim 1 is patentable.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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